

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a ferrule having a plurality of fiber holes for insertion of optical fibers formed between two pin holes for insertion of guide pins, comprising a step of injecting a synthetic resin in a mold for forming said ferrule while holding a plurality of pins with a Young's modulus of  $(22 \text{ to } 59) \times 10^{10} \text{ N/m}^2$  for forming said fiber holes at two points separated by a distance of 1.5 to 4 mm in a lengthwise direction of said pins.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled)

4. (Original) A ferrule comprising plural groups of fiber holes for insertion of optical fibers formed at predetermined intervals, each group having a plurality of fiber holes, each fiber hole having a guide hole portion and a minute hole portion whose inside diameter is smaller than that of said guide hole portion,

said guide hole portion having a taper portion formed on a minute hole portion side in such a way that said taper portion is tapered toward said minute hole portion and has a length  $L_t$  set to  $1 \geq L_t/L_g \geq 1/3$  where  $L_g$  is a total length of said guide hole portion.

5. (Amended) ~~A ferrule comprising plural groups of fiber holes for insertion of optical fibers formed at predetermined intervals, each group having a plurality of fiber holes, each fiber hole having a guide hole portion and a minute hole portion whose inside diameter is smaller than that of said guide hole portion, of claim 7, wherein~~

said guide hole portion being formed in such a way that said inside diameter thereof becomes smaller in a stepwise manner toward said minute hole portion.

6. (Amended) ~~A ferrule comprising plural groups of fiber holes for insertion of optical fibers formed at predetermined intervals, each group having a plurality of fiber holes,~~

~~each fiber hole having a guide hole portion and a minute hole portion whose inside diameter is smaller than that of said guide hole portion, of claim 7, wherein~~

said guide hole portion being formed in such a way that said inside diameter thereof becomes smaller continuously toward said minute hole portion.

7. (New) A ferrule comprising:

pin holes for insertion of guide pins;

an opening which communicates with said plurality of fiber holes and through which an adhesive for securely adhering said optical fibers in said fiber holes is injected; and

plural rows of fiber holes for insertion of optical fibers formed at predetermined intervals, each row having a plurality of fiber holes formed between said pin holes, wherein,

each fiber hole having a guide hole portion of a minute hole portion whose inside diameter is smaller than that of said guide hole portion.